

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

At the outset, the Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication in the Final Rejection that claims 16-19 are allowable.

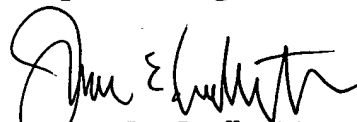
With the above amendments, claims 13-20 have been canceled, and allowable claims 16-19 have been re-written in independent form to overcome the objections and rejections set forth in the Final Rejection.

More specifically, allowable claims 16-18 have been redrafted in independent form as new claims 21-23. Allowable claim 19 has been redrafted as new claim 24 and depends from base claim 23. Independent claims 25-27 recite features of apparatus claims 21-23, although with respect to method claims. Accordingly, all of the new claims are considered to be directed to subject matter indicated as allowable in the pending Final Rejection, and thus allowance of claims 21-27 is considered to be warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JEL/DWW/att

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